

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C.-- Today, Congressman Sires voted to oppose the budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2012. H.Con.Res. 34, offered by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), establishes a budget plan that would end Medicare for seniors as we know it, cut access to education, and significantly reduce housing assistance. Specifically, the plan would privatize Medicare, make cuts to Pell grants and housing vouchers for homeless veterans, and create new tax breaks for wealthy Americans.

This budget would gut the Medicare program under the guise of reform by threatening to turn it into a voucher program that will shift more costs to seniors and their families," said Congressman Sires. "It also attacks seniors with deep cuts to Medicaid, which serves as our nation's primary payer for long-term care."

H.Con.Res.34 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 235 to 193. House Democrats offered an alternative budget which would invest in American jobs, end tax breaks for Big Oil corporations, reduce the deficit responsibly, and strengthen the middle class and the economy. While Congressman Sires supported this alternative, the measure ultimately failed by a vote of 166 to 259.

“We need a budget that reduces our deficit, focuses on economic growth by continuing investments in education, health care, and jobs, and that also eliminates tax breaks for Big Oil and rejects new tax breaks for the wealthy,” said Sires. “Seniors and working families should not be forced to pay for these unfair policies that benefit special interests and allow needed jobs to be shipped overseas.”

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